

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 01709 130959Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 PASO-00 ISO-00 NEA-10 /017 W
-----118986 140115Z /73

R 130831Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0079

UNCLAS COLOMBO 1709

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC (SORTE, DON)

SUBJ: W/W DON SORTE - MISSING YACHT CRUSADER

TO: MR. AND MRS. J.A. SORTE
917 NO. 90TH
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98103

DEAR MR. AND MRS. SORTE:
THANK YOU FOR YOUR VERY THOUGHTFUL LETTER OF MARCH 29, 1978
CONCERNING YOUR SON, DON SORTE, SKIPPER OF THE YACHT CRUSADER.
THE EMBASSY FIRST HEARD OF THE CRUSADER ON NOVEMBER 24, 1977,
FROM A LOCAL SRI LANKAN AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR WHO HAD BEEN
IN CONTACT WITH THE YACHT VIA SHIP TO SHORT RADIO. HE RE-
PORTED THAT CRUSADER WAS 300 MILES EAST OF SRI LANKA EXPER-
IENCING HEAVY WINDS. WHEN HE RECEIVED NOTHING FURTHER FROM
CRUSADER HE NOTIFIED THE EMBASSY.
WE IMMEDIATELY ASKED THE SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT FOR ALL
POSSIBLE INFORMATION ABOUT CRUSADER INCLUDING THE IDENTITY
OF THE CREW. WE WORKED TOGETHER WITH THE CANADIAN, BRITISH
AND AUSTRALIAN EMBASSIES HERE WHICH ALSO HAD CITIZENS OF THEIR
COUNTRIES ON BOARD THE CRUSADER. URGENT TELEGRAMS WERE SENT
TO ALL THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED AND ALL THEIR EMBASSIES IN
THE REGION FROM INDIA TO THAILAND SIMULTANEOUSLY BY ALL OF
US. AT MY REQUEST THE U.S. NAVY CARRIED OUT AN AIR-SEA SEARCH
WHICH COVERED AN AREA OF 185,450 SQUARE MILES OF THE INDIAN
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OCEAN. DEBRIS WAS LOCATED ON DECEMBER 6, 1977 BUT COULD NOT
BE POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED AS BELONGING TO THE CRUSADER.
I REGRET VERY MUCH THAT SINCE DECEMBER THERE HAVE BEEN NO
NEW DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE CRUSADER. ANY PIECE OF IN-
FORMATION NO MATTER HOW FRAGMENTARY WHICH IS BROUGHT TO OUR
ATTENTION IS IMMEDIATELY AND THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED AND RE-
PORTED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

WE ARE PARENTS OF A SON WHO TRAVELS CONTINUOUSLY IN REMOTE
PARTS OF THE WORLD. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I HAVE SOME UNDER-
STANDING OF WHAT YOU ARE GOING THROUGH AND THAT WE ARE DOING
EVERYTHING TO FIND YOUR SON THAT YOU WOULD DO YOURSELF IF
YOU WERE HERE.

WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS.

SINCERELY YOUR,

W. HOWARD WRIGGINS

AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

AMERICAN EMBASSY

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

WRIGGINS

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: CASC, (SORTE, DON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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